

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Captain Gussie M. Jones.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Captain Gussie M. Jones upon her death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the tragic death of Captain Gussie M. Jones; and

WHEREAS, Captain Jones was a native of Shreveport and a 16-year veteran of the United States Army, enlisting in 1988 and beginning a long and distinguished career in the military; and

WHEREAS, Captain Jones was a surgical nurse assigned to the 31<sup>st</sup> Combat Support Hospital at Fort Bliss, Texas, and was admired and greatly respected by all of her comrades at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center's intensive care unit where she was stationed before her deployment to Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lenore Enzel, deputy commander of patient services and nursing, at the El Paso hospital where Captain Jones worked said, "She really was the glue that held our hospital together"; and

WHEREAS, Captain Jones, after arriving in the Iraqi combat zone, was a part of a

1 front line medical team treating not only wounded American service members but Iraqi  
2 civilians caught in the crossfire of a terrorist insurgency and the Coalition Forces fighting  
3 them; and

4 WHEREAS, Captain Jones and other surgical nurses stationed in the Iraqi Theater  
5 of Operations have valiantly worked impossibly long hours of endless shifts with little or no  
6 support staffing and suffering shortages of every medical supply item imaginable while still  
7 managing to accomplish their mission of treating those wounded in the war as well as those  
8 who fell ill to disease; and

9 WHEREAS, Captain Jones and other surgical nurses serving in Operation Iraqi  
10 Freedom have suffered also from the deep emotional toll of caring for terribly wounded  
11 young men, enduring the trauma of witnessing first hand the violence of modern warfare,  
12 and the crippling loneliness of the separation from their own families and loved ones back  
13 in the homeland they bravely and gallantly serve; and

14 WHEREAS, Captain Jones was a 41-year-old medical surgical nurse on March 7,  
15 2004, in Baghdad, performing her duties in her standard, highly professional and always  
16 exemplary, manner when she fell mortally ill and succumbed to an apparent heart attack; and

17 WHEREAS, Captain Jones will forever be remembered by her family, friends and  
18 fellow soldiers as a dedicated, highly trained, mentally tough emergency surgical nurse who  
19 administered a tender mercy to her patients, always placing their needs and those of her  
20 comrades before her own.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
22 express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a grateful state and  
23 nation to the family of United States Army Captain Gussie M. Jones.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be  
25 transmitted to her sister, Wanda McDaniel.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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#### DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of United States Army Captain Gussie M. Jones.